Capital Letter:

NIW YORK

ongress' Radio-TV Star

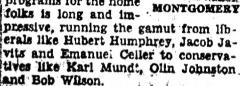
By RUTH MONTGOMERY

MASHINGTON: One of the most popular pastimes on Capitol Hill is recording radio and television shows for the greater edification of the voters back home.

Both the House and Senate have

their recording rooms, where for a fraction of the usual commercial costs legislators can tape the nuggets of wisdom, blarney and corn which the local stations spin as a public service.

The list of Senators and Representatives who turn out regular programs for the home



The undisputed radio TV star of Congress, however, is white-maned, riiddy-cheeked, blue-eyed Senator Kenneth Kesting of New York

Kenneth Keating of New York.

Ken's spectacular pepularity is due not to his looks but to the fact that he got to the airways first at with the mostest, and is still the battest.

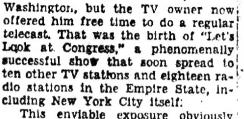
Newamen have to cover Keating's television program every week—no other legislator est make this boast—because he invarianty makes good, solid name.

He often not only out-scoops the best men, but also the big-name news panel shows who he quality of his guest stars. Fet a layer without a grain of journal stic of plevision training, he doesn's do too bally.

Few voters putside of his immediate constitution had even heard of

ate constitue by had even heard of Ken back in 100, when his hometown of Rochester 111, acquired its first TV station.

As the toul experessman, Ken was already dring a racke program from



This enviable exposure obviously; did him no harm when he decided in 1958 to go after the vacated seat of Senator Irving S. Ives. During the dozen years since the TV show began, he has interviewed every member of President Eisenhower's cabinet except foot-in-mouth Charlie Wilson, and also such nearly-impossible-to-get officials as spy chief Allen Dulles and FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover.

He has interviewed John F. Kennedy every year except this one, and has now started on JFK's cabinet, adding Attorney General Bobby Kennedy, Labor Secretary Arthur J. Goldberg and Walfare Secretary Abraham Ribicoff to his string of VIPA Commerce Secretary Luther Hodges, is slated as his next victim.

The victims, incidentally, love it, since the GOP Senato, hever argues with them, gives them tree rein, but grinningly tells the view r that their views are not necessarily his own.

Keating alternates the atraight-interview show with another one called, "Ask Ken Keating," with gives him a chance to answer his mail on television.

vision.

The witty Republic in cons even the busiest cabinet official, ambassador or agency head into doubting him at the Senate recording the to make the telecasts. Nobody the part, and the tapes are furnished free to the stations which split the difinitesimily record-

This seems to be one of those fire schemes where everybody gets a seething for nothing. No wonder him is the envy of Capitol Hill.



Approvéd Fór Rejease 1999/09/16 : CIA-RDP70-00058R600200130013-1